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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Frank Filser et al. Docket No.: 00-497

Serial No.: Examiner :

Filed : Art Unit :

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IFD : March 16, 1999

For : DENTAL CROWNS AND/OR DENTAL BRIDGES

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks
United States Patent & Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants hereby submit the prior art listed hereinbelow, copies enclosed, which prior art was cited in the International Search Report and instant specification.

- (1) European Patent No. EP 0580 565, entitled METHOD OF MANUFACTURING CERAMIC ARTIFICIAL TOOTH RESTORATIONS, published January 26, 1994. This patent discloses a method of manufacturing artificial tooth restorations for natural teeth or implants comprising a ceramic

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densely sintered, high strength individual core (B) with dental porcelain (A) by powder metallurgical manufacturing methods. The inner surface (I) of the core (B), which will fit against one or more prepared tooth surfaces (P) or artificial abutments, are manufactured by forming a ceramic powder mixture against a surface of a body at which this mentioned surface is manufactured by registering the surfaces of the prepared teeth or artificial abutments and their mutual relationship with a three dimensional optical or mechanical reading method directly in the mouth or on a model in e.g. plaster after which the registered surfaces are reproduced in an enlarged size e.g. with a computer controlled milling machine at which the enlargement is calculated from the shrinkage of the ceramic material during sintering to full density and considering the gap for cement.

- (2) European Patent No. EP0 389 461, entitled BLANK FROM WHICH A DENTAL IMPLANT CAN BE MACHINED, AND A METHOD F MAKING THE BLANK, published September 26, 1990. This patent discloses artificial onlay tooth crowns or inlays composed of a prefabricated core designed for

preparations for onlay tooth crowns or inlays in natural teeth. The core is preferably fabricated from a high strength densely sintered ceramic material by copy milling from a negative reproduction from the prepared cavity to a compacted body or a presintered ceramic material. During the copy milling the sintering shrinkage is considered by enlargement of the copy milled compacted body or the presintered body corresponding to the sintering shrinkage. The onlay tooth crowns and inlays are given the final shape by shaping the surfaces outside the cavity of the compacted or the presintered body. After the final sintering the external surface can be shaped before a veneer material is attached to the external surface of the core by e.g. firing of dental porcelain. To manufacture onlay tooth crowns or an inlay according to the method of the invention decreases essentially the manufacturing time for onlay tooth crowns and inlays and at the same time the strength and the accuracy to shape increase.

- (3) European Patent No. EP 0 160 797, entitled ARTIFICIAL ONLAY TOOTH CROWNS AND INLAYS, By Moermann et al.,

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published October 7, 1986. This patent discloses a

blank adapted for use in custom fabrication of an implant for dental restoration which includes first and second joined parts. The first part is made of the raw material of the ultimate implant, whereas the second part can be made of a different material. The second part is shaped to facilitate a positive support of the blank in a milling machine, and is preferably equipped with a code-bearing surface which permits information about the physical properties of the blank to be sensed by the machine. In a preferred realization, the first part is made from ceramic silica and the second part from aluminum, and the two are bonded by an acrylic glue.

The undersigned submits the above-identified references for independent consideration by the Examiner and does not make any admission that these references are or are not material to the

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present invention or that these references are or are not prior art with respect to the present invention.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is being
transmitted with the United States Postal Service in
an envelope addressed to the Commissioner
of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20590

on August 30, 2000

(Date of Deposit)

Rachel Piscitelli

(Name and Reg. No. of Attorney)

Rachel Piscitelli
Signature
August 30, 2000
(Date of Signature)

Respectfully submitted,

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